

## Farm Business News

### Farm toy auction

WILLOW STREET — Farm Toy Supply, a new wholesale distributor of farm toys manufactured by The Toy Farmer from Laumure, N.D. will sponsor a toy show specializing in farm toys.

This show will be made up of two types of activities. On April 8, at 7 p.m. there will be an auction in which quite a few older farm toys will put across public auction to local collectors. On April 9, from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. there will be a show and sale.

This auction and show will be held at Willow Valley Farms Inn which is located just south of Lancaster on Route 222. The show will consist of a number of local

collectors displaying their specialized collections, which will include John Deere, Farmall, Allis Chalmers, Case, and others.

Wilbur and Todd McMichael, who operate Farm Toy Supply, have enjoyed farm toy collecting for a number of years. Their collections include John Deere, Case and International. Special models that they enjoy are John Deere A, John Deere 430, many John Deere pieces of equipment, Case SD, Case-omatic, Black Night, Farmall M, Farmall 450 and International 1206. Toys in their collection include in excess of 200 tractors.

## Big PIK signup is seen

MILWAUKEE, Wis. — Farmers were shifting toward even greater compliance with USDA's Payment-In-Kind (PIK) acreage reduction plan as the final hours before the March 11 sign-up deadline approached, according to the last of three electronic surveys conducted March 4-7 by AgriStar, an electronic business information and communications service for farmers, ranchers and agribusiness.

The results show more than 85 percent of the sample of large-acreage farmers are signing up for PIK acreage reductions — indicating a surprisingly large participation level.

Sixteen percent of the respondents to the final of three reports from the AgriStar survey sample said their participation level had changed in the past week — and all of the change was toward greater

compliance. The changes included some farmers who were previously undecided, some who were increasing their level of participation and some who changed their minds from non-participation to compliance. Only 2 percent of the sample remained undecided in the final survey.

The USDA is scheduled to release PIK figures on Tuesday.

A spokesman for AgriDate Resources, Inc., the Milwaukee-based operator of AgriStar, said the weekly PIK survey was conducted through AgriStar's electronic mail system, StarGram, for three consecutive weeks.

In the initial AgriStar survey, 85 percent of the corn farmers said they would participate in acreage reduction programs, 10 percent said they would not, and 5 percent were undecided. Some 62 percent said they would participate at the full 50 percent level and 37 percent planned on entering whole base

bids. Average corn base acreage of respondents was 551 compared to average Class 1A corn acreage of 372. Of the wheat farmers, 84 percent said they would participate in acreage reduction programs, 9 percent said they would not, and 4 percent were undecided. Some 38 percent said they would participate at the full 50 percent level and 38 percent planned on entering whole base bids. Average wheat base of respondents was 1110 as compared to average Class 1A wheat acreage of 437.

AgriStar results also show that nearly half of the farmers anticipate that PIK would reduce their production costs by 21 percent or more. About 20 percent said they would try to boost yields on the acres of wheat and corn they will plant this year. Of the respondents, 99 percent said PIK tax uncertainty had had no effect on their decisions.

## Wolgemuth holds poultry meeting



Honored for their layer operation by Wolgemuth Bros. were Raymond and Peggy Frysinger, 320 Blantz Rd., Lititz; shown with Phil Nuss, service manager at right.

The Frysingers have 40,135 hens with a feed conversion of 3.36 lbs. per dozen eggs and 21.61 lbs. per 100 dozen eggs. Egg production per hen averaged 260 at an 86.3 percent livability.



Speakers at the Wolgemuth Bros. poultry meeting include, from the left, Mike Pretrosy, American Hoechst Corp., on the use of Bambermycins in Broiler and Turkey Feeds; Henry Correll, Ceva Laboratories, on the use of the Pesticide Larvicide, True Blue Grit; Noah Gehman, Master of Ceremonies, from Wolgemuth; Dr. Richard Boyd, Rocco Poultry Farms on solving chick and turkey starveout problems; and Bill Reed, sales manager for Wolgemuth. Dr. Roy Breister, of Nutrius, Inc., absent from the photo, spoke on the application of the cost of nutrition to egg production.



Turkey production winners were among those honored at the annual Wolgemuth Bros., Inc. Florin Appreciation Poultry Meeting last week at the Harvest Drive Restaurant, Gordonville.

Shown, from the left, are Dave Petrosky, turkey service manager; Mr. and Mrs. Ben Stoltzfus, R4 Honeybrook; Mr. and Mrs. Gideon Stoltzfus, R2 Honeybrook; and Bill Reed, sales manager for Wolgemuth.

Mr. and Mrs. Ben Stoltzfus' operation showed the best feed conversion for turkeys with 2.39 lbs. of feed per pound of weight gain; an average weight of 14.22 lbs. in 13 weeks and six days.

Mr. and Mrs. Gideon Stoltzfus' operation had the best rate of gain for turkeys with 14.83 lbs. of weight gained in 14.3 weeks at a conversion rate of 2.45 lbs. of feed per pound of gain.



Pullet winners at Florin Feeds dinner/meeting include Mr. and Mrs. Guy Wanner, R2 Narvon, at left; Mr. and Mrs. Vince Landis, R1 East Greenville; with Phil Nuss, service manager, in center.

The Guy and Irene Wanner operation recorded a 98.5 percent livability rate with 76,000 Hy-Line.

The best pullet feed conversion of Vince and Betty Landis showed 13.12 in 20 weeks with 87,000 Shavers at 95.3 percent livability.